

MORSES POND

The Morses Pond beach is located on the south side of the 109 acre Morses Pond. Developed in 1945, the beach area is about five acres in size and the adjacent parking lot can accommodate 275 cars. The pond is enjoyed by residents of Wellesley for swimming, fishing, and boating. The facility is staffed by the Recreation Commission, which provides swimming instructors and life guards. Maintenance is provided by the Park and Tree Division of the Department of Public Works. Facilities at the beach include a bath house, a sailboat launching and mooring area, picnic facilities and a small playground.

The quality of water is a major maintenance concern of the Department of Public Works. The water must be clean and clear for swimming and for recharging the municipal wells located to the west of the pond. During the summer months, the Park Division operates an aquatic weed harvester which removes weeds from the pond. The weed removal not only increases the area available for boating and swimming, but leads to an improvement in the water's recreation value. The harvesting operation removes the top five feet of weed growth as well as all the nutrients contained within the plants.

The innovative irrigation system at the beach recently won an award from the Landscape Architecture Foundation. Canadian Geese had been creating problems by nesting on the beach and feeding on the grass adjacent to it. When other solutions failed, an irrigation system was installed across the middle of the beach. The sprinkler heads are set to turn on in an erratic pattern for a few minutes at the beginning of every hour. The sprinklers scare the geese away from the beach and as a result of this system, not only is the beach cleaner, but the sand remains cooler and the grass is green and moist, making the beach even more enjoyable for residents of Wellesley.

The pond, like other Town ponds, suffers from accelerating eutrophication. Homeowners can help by reducing or eliminating use of chemical fertilizers. The Friends of Morses Pond are active in efforts to preserve this important recreational resource.